

VLR-3/20/79 NRHP-6/22/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Jun 22 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John Beaver House (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Thomas Shirley House

2 LOCATION

N side of State Route 615; E of State Route 211.

STREET & NUMBER

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Salem

X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Page

CODE

139

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

X AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

J N PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dr. Thomas C. Mandes

STREET & NUMBER

301 Maple Avenue, W

CITY, TOWN

Vienna

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 22180

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Page County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CIN. TOWN

Luray

STATE

Virginia 22835

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE

1973, 1975

__FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 22219

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Beaver House, popularly known as the Thomas Shirley House, is set among the gently rolling farmlands of Massanutten Old Fields near the Shenandoah River in Page County. The original section was erected in 1825-6 by John Beaver; the ell was added in the late 19th century.

The original portion of the structure is a two-story, four-bay, single-pile building built of brick laid in Flemish bond on the facade, with five-course American bond on the ends. A three-course molded brick cornice embellishes the eaves of the gable roof and exterior end chimneys flank the ends of the house. The facade is symmetrical with a pair of front doors flanked by 9/6 windows in the first story and with four 6/6 windows in the floor. All of the facade windows are embellished with gauged jack arches. In the center between the two pairs of openings is a tall diaper pattern formed of glazed headers.

The late 19th-century two-story, five-bay kitchen/dining room ell is built of brick laid in seven-course American bond with Flemish variant (alternating headers and stretchers instead of a header course). The two-level porch, built along both the older and newer sections in the reentrant angle, dates from this later period of construction.

The plan is a simple one. The older section contains two equal-sized rooms, with an enclosed winder stair rising against the partition wall in the eastern room. A modern bathroom has been built against the partition in the west room, and a small window (disfiguring the diaper pattern) cut in the facade to illuminate it. The ell also has two rooms, each with a fireplace on the south wall, and with an enclosed winder stair rising against the partition in the south room. The west wall of the ell's first floor north room has been removed to provide access to modern brick dining room.

Interior decoration is plain. The west room of the front section is embellished with recessed-panel wainscoting, a mantel with a reeded band in the surround, and raised panel doors. The front window was blocked at an early date and converted to a cupboard with double two-panel doors. Between it and the front door, which is grained on the exterior, is a peg board with early pegs. Decoration in the west room is similar. In the ell are Greek Revival-style mantels with plain pilasters, unadorned friezes and plain shelves.

Throughout the old section of the house, a profusion of early hardware survives. Most notable are the spring locks which remain on most of the interior and exterior doors.

Two early outbuildings survive. Directly east of the house is a two-story, three-bay smokehouse built of brick laid in five-course American bond with Flemish variant. It has a box cornice, a gable roof, and wooden grilled windows. North of this is a one-story, two-bay gable-roofed brick wash room with a large brick exterior end chimney, and a low front porch. It is built of brick laid in common bond which, like the brickwork of the smokehouse, is penciled. East of the smokehouse is a modern concrete block garage and west of the main house is a modern frame barn.

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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The bounds of the John Beaver House have been drawn as a rectangle delineated on the south by Rt. 615, on the north by the fence line between the message lot and the farm fields and on the east and west by imaginary lines so placed as to include the barn and the domestic outbuildings.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1825-1826; late 19th Century BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Beaver House, a two-story brick dwelling set among the open farmlands of Massanutten Old Fields in Page County, is a significant product of the acculturation process among Continental settlers of the area. Remnants of Continental building styles include the double-entry, four-bay facade and rare diaper-brickwork decoration. The hall-parlor plan, interior decoration and structure are, on the other hand, all standard features of early-19th-century architecture in western Virginia.

John Beaver was the husband of Nancy Strickler, great granddaughter of Abraham Strickler (d. 1746), a prominent original settler of the Valley. The elder Strickler bought a tract of 1000 acres from land promoter, Jacob Stover in 1735. Strickler's son Benjamin purchased additional property but contracted debts that caused his estate to sell the entire tract to Henry Forrer in 1799. In 1811 Isaac Strickler, Benjamin's son and sometime estate administrator, repurchased four tracts of the land from Forrer's heir, Christian Forrer. Isaac left 274½ acres of this land to his daughter Nancy Strickler Beaver in 1817.

When the land tax records first recorded buildings separately in 1820, this property was listed as having \$500 worth of buildings already standing on it. However, the architectural evidence shows that it was not the present house. The latter was built ca. 1825, for the land tax records for 1826 show an increase in building valuation to \$1,089 with the notation "\$1.60 per acre added for a new house."

In 1858 John Beaver's executors sold part of his property including the house to Martin Shirley of Shenandoah County for \$6,549.75. (It is Shirley's son or grandson Thomas from whom the house takes its common name). There was no change in the tax assessment as late as 1880, indicating that the ell was constructed after that date.

In recent years, the property has served as a tenant farm.

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John Beaver House (Preferred), Page County, Virginia

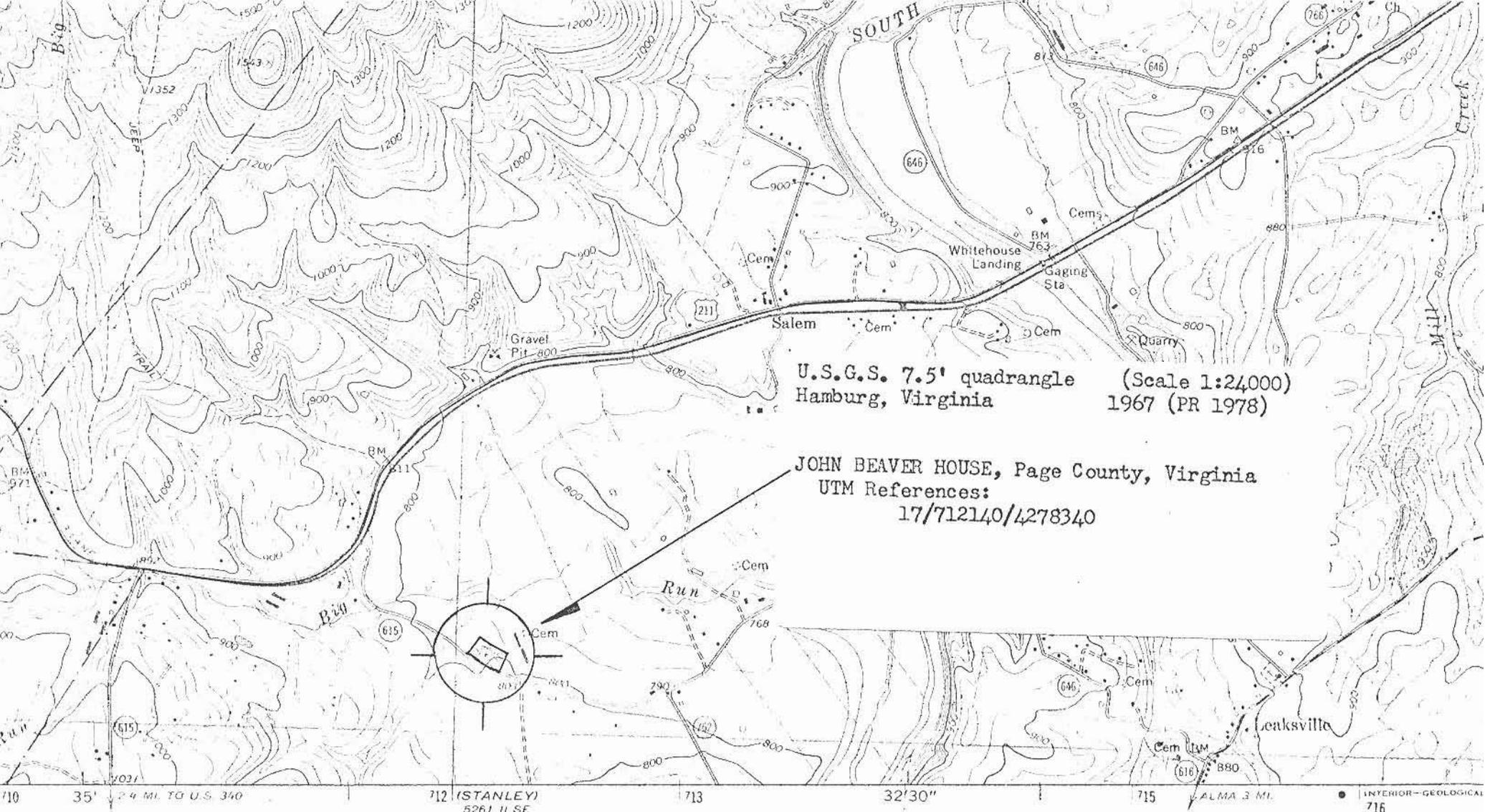
CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Strickler, Harry M.. Forerunners. Ruebush-Kieffer Co.. Dayton, Virginia, 1925.



712 (STANLEY)
5261 II SE

SCALE 1:24,000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CL
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface

U. S. Route



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST